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**i-STEM Teacher Institutes scheduled for 2013**

IDAHO FALLS - Idaho educators will learn about science, technology, engineering and math-based topics and how to use the information in their classrooms during five expense-paid workshops held around the state in June.

Nearly 500 educators are expected to attend this year's i-STEM Teacher Institutes, which will be held:

- June 17-20 at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene.
- June 17-20 at Idaho State University in Pocatello.
- June 17-19 at Eastern Idaho Technical College in Idaho Falls.
- June 24-27 at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.
- June 25-27 at the University of Phoenix in Meridian.

The workshops are organized by the Idaho STEM initiative or i-STEM -- a partnership of educators, government agencies, organizations and private companies working to improve STEM education in the state. I-STEM members include Idaho National Laboratory, universities and community colleges, the state Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, Micron and Idaho Power. More information is available at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/istem](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/istem).

This is the fourth year i-STEM has sponsored the K-12 teacher professional development summer institutes. Since 2010, the number of workshops has expanded from two to five and hundreds of teachers and administrators have participated. The Idaho Falls workshop is new this year.

"We've added workshops so we can train as many educators as possible," said Anne Seifert, executive director of i-STEM and INL's K-12 education coordinator. "One of the goals of the regional workshops is to help educators learn about the STEM resources in their own backyard."

During the workshops, participants choose a specific topic to study such as energy, robotics, environment, gold-mining or health care. They attend sessions taught by STEM experts. Educators also participate in general sessions to learn how to integrate STEM into all the subjects they teach. Participants receive continuing education credits and resource kits.

The i-STEM institutes are funded by an Idaho state Math and Science Partnership Grant, and by industry supporters like Micron, Hewlett Packard, Idaho Power, Intermountain Gas, ON Semiconductor, Simplot, Battelle Energy Alliance and others.

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